

CLAIMS

1 1. A vehicle console comprising:
2 a body;
3 a cover; and
4 a pivot arm pivotally coupled to one of the body and the cover,
5 wherein the pivot arm and the other of the body and the cover snap into
6 engagement with one another.

1 2. The console of claim 1, wherein the pivot arm includes:
2 a projection pivotally coupled to said one of the body and the
3 cover; and
4 a member having a first portion and a second portion, wherein at
5 least one of the first portion and the second portion pivots between a closed
6 position in which at least one of the first and second portions is mechanically
7 locked to the projection and an open position enabling the projection to be
8 separated from the member, wherein the member engages the second
9 component to couple the first component to the second component and
10 wherein the second component engages the member to retain the member in
11 the closed position.

1 3. The console of claim 2, wherein one of the projection and the
2 member includes a detent surface and wherein the other of the projection and
3 the member includes a detent-engaging surface.

1 4. The console of claim 2, wherein the first portion and the second
2 portion pivot about a living hinge.

1 5. The console of claim 4, wherein the first portion is integrally
2 formed as a single unitary body with the second portion.

1 6. The console of claim 2, wherein the projection pivots about an
2 axis and wherein the first portion extends along the projection into close
3 proximity with the axis.

1 7. The console of claim 2, wherein at least a portion of the
2 projection is resilient.

1 8. The console of claim 7, wherein the projection is formed from at
2 least one resilient metal.

1 9. The console of claim 8, wherein the at least one resilient metal
2 includes Martinsite.

1 10. The console of claim 2, wherein the cover includes a rod and
2 wherein the projection at least partially encircles the rod.

1 11. The console of claim 2, wherein the body includes a recess
2 configured to receive the member.

1 12. The console of claim 11, wherein the body includes one of a
2 detent surface and a detent-engaging surface in the recess and wherein the
3 member includes the other of a detent surface and a detent-engaging surface.

1 13. The console of claim 1, wherein the cover includes an armrest.

1 14. The console of claim 1, wherein the pivot arm is pivotally coupled
2 to the cover.

1 15. The console of claim 14, wherein the body includes a recess
2 configured to receive the pivot arm.

1 16. The console of claim 15, wherein the body includes one of a
2 detent surface and a detent-engaging surface in the recess and wherein the
3 pivot arm includes the other of a detent surface and a detent-engaging surface.

1 17. The console of claim 1, wherein the first and second portions
2 engage opposite sides of the projection.

1 18. The console of claim 1, wherein the pivot arm includes:

2 a projection pivotally coupled to said one of the body and the
3 cover;

4 a member configured to mechanically interlock with the projection
5 and the other of the body and the cover.

1 19. The console of claim 18, wherein the member is configured to
2 connect to both the projection and the other of the body and the cover without
3 fasteners and without adhesive.

1 20. A snap-in coupling assembly comprising:
2 a first component;
3 a second component;
4 a projection extending from the first component; and
5 a member having a first portion and a second portion, wherein at
6 least one of the first portion and the second portion pivots between a closed
7 position in which at least one of the first portion and the second portion is
8 mechanically locked to the projection, and an open position enabling the
9 projection to be separated from the member, wherein the member engages the
10 second component to couple the first component to the second component
11 and wherein the second component engages the member to retain the member
12 in the closed position.

1 21. A coupling member for use with a first component having a
2 projection and a second component, the member comprising:
3 a first portion; and
4 a second portion, wherein at least one of the first portion and the
5 second portion pivots between a closed position in which at least one of the
6 first portion and the second portion is mechanically locked to the projection,
7 and an open position enabling the projection to be separated from the member,
8 wherein the member engages the second component to couple the first
9 component to the second component and wherein the second component
10 engages the member to retain the member in the closed position.

1 22. A method for joining a first component to a second component,
2 the method comprising:

3 inserting a projection coupled to the first component between two
4 portions of a coupling member;

5 pivoting the two portions into engagement with the projection;
6 and

7 inserting the coupling member into an opening in the second
8 component.